SAMPLE SLAB UPDATE

42 – JUNE 2025

THE NEWSLETTER FOR SAMPLE SLAB COLLECTORS.

New Currency Sample Slab Issuers – ACCA and Yuan-Tai Grading

Coin samples from Asian Coin Certification Authority (ACCA) and Yuan-Tai Grading have appeared before. Paper money sample slabs, however, are new for both issuers.

ACCA is based in Taiwan and appears to handle only Asian material. Their samples with 1st century China cash coins are listed in earlier editions of the Sample Slabs book. This piece, with a China 1980 1 jiao note, qualifies as a sample because it commemorates the "2018 Hong Kong Huahui Company Spring Coin Auction / April 7, 2018" (machine translation of the Chinese text) and the "10th Anniversary of ACCA." All ACCA samples are scarce.

Yuan-Tai Grading is based in Shanghai and certifies stamps, coins, and paper money. As a sample issuer, they were previously known only from a seldom-seen sample commemorating the service's opening in 2014 and holding a China 2014 one-yuan coin. The pictured piece holds a China 1999 one yuan note. It falls in the show sample category and is pedigreed to the "Greater China Hong

Kong Collectors Association 2016 Seminar," according to machine translation of the last line of Chinese text. The QR code leads to Yuan-Tai's cert verifier for this note, including a photo. This single note is the only sample, coin or currency, to ever appear on eBay from Yuan-Tai.

I bought both from Hong Kong-based eBay seller yus18, a prolific supplier of samples from shows in Asia.

Slab Collector Meeting #9 at the Oklahoma City ANA – Thursday, August 21, 6:00 pm

The ANA's World Fair of Money in Oklahoma City will include another slab collector meetup. Ninth in a series that started in 2016, this will be an informal meeting of enthusiasts talking about our mutual interest. There is always some show and tell and trading, so feel free to bring slabs to show or sell. In the lobby of the Omni Hotel by the convention center. Thursday, August 21, 6:00 pm. I plan to be there early.

Is there a gift for the occasion? You bet your slab there is! Thanks to NGC, attendees will get a holder pedigreed to the event. I expect to have them in hand soon.

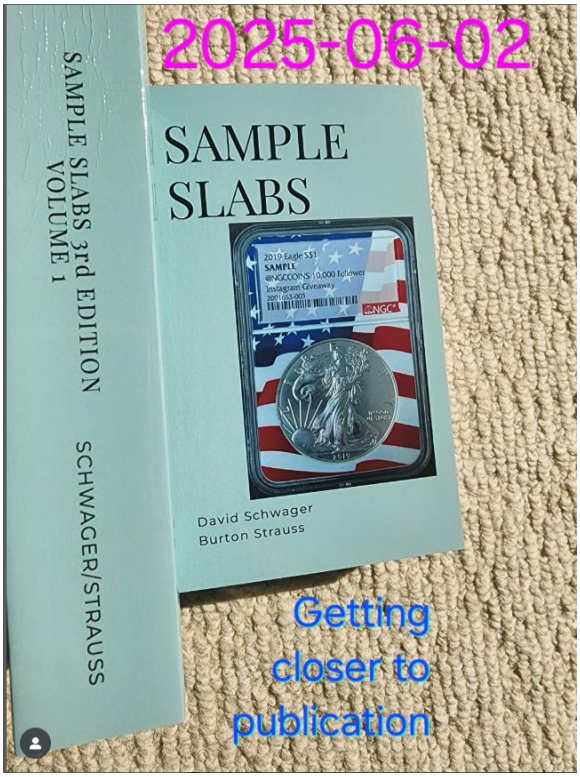
The eBay Sales Spreadsheet Surpasses 20,000 Records

As many of you know, I have been recording eBay sample slab sales since 2013. Because no pricing information existed, I decided to make my own and began laboriously typing each eBay completed

sample slab sale into a spreadsheet. This data set became the basis of the research for all three editions of the book, growing from about 1,700 records for the 2015 first edition to about 3,100 records for the 2016 second edition to around 20,500 records today. It has been a lot of work, slab friends.

Until about five years ago, eBay was nearly the only sample marketplace. Sales in auctions, at shows, on social media, or other avenues happened infrequently. Now that slab and sample collecting has moved to the edge of the mainstream and samples sell in many places, one limitation to the records is that eBay is no longer the sole sample slab market. Every type of material, however, finds its way to eBay, and eBay remains the single best source of prices. The eBay sales spreadsheet is probably the largest data set on sample slabs that will ever exist, and I plan to continue this work.

Book News



In newsletter #41, we reported that Burton Strauss was working on a second draft of volume 1, covering 800+ types of NGC and PCGS samples. We completed that draft. Burton is experimenting with printing and publishing, including creating pre-production printed copies, as seen in this Instagram post.

We do not have a publication date but see SampleSlabs.info for more. Also, if you are on the mailing list for this newsletter, I will be sure you hear news on the book.

You can help with this research request from Burton below.

"With VaultBox, it has been hard to find records and to track sales across multiple platforms. The 3rd edition has three types:

NGC-100-6-3 – VaultBox Series 1 – 2023 ASE – the NGC database has photos.
NGC-100-6-2 – VaultBox Series 2 – 2023 ASE – the NGC database has photos.
NGC-100-6-3 – VaultBox Series 4 – 1921 Morgan – the NGC database doesn't have photos.

Remember, even if we see things in IG feeds or TikTok videos, we don't have rights to use the photographs.

For example, we know, but haven't cataloged:

Series 3 used 2023 ASE and cert# 6796809-_ _ _
Series 5 used 2023 ASE and cert# 8136561-_ _ _
An unknown series used 2008-Mo Libertad 1 oz silver with cert# 8318990-_ _ _
FunBox 2024 used an Eighth Era colorized medal with privy mark with cert # 6932955-_ _ _

For other series, we don't even know if they exist or what coins were used.

If you have any information or photos, please send them along, either Discoveries@SampleSlabs.info or BStrauss@acm.org. Please let us know how you want to be credited. We've used names, initials, eBay names, even 'Images by somebody who best remain anonymous.'"

The Slab Man

My friend Keith Dewald, creative director at Collectors (parent company of PCGS), did me a great favor and made me a logo. Even better, he made three logos. With Isaiah Hageman the undisputed Slab King (Hail, Slab King!) Keith and I discussed several options and settled on Slab Man. I had stickers made with the top logo, a jacket with the middle logo is on the way, and I am not done making merch. A satchel or backpack to take to coin shows could be next. Many thanks, Keith!

Buying and Selling

Buying

For my own collection, I look for samples from obscure or unlisted grading services (such as AHCGS, CCCS, or TCTS), gold coin samples, and rarities from all services. Specifically, I am looking for ICG casino chips, the PCGS blue label with a Canada 25 cents and grade MS00 and the Accugrade salesman's sample. I also buy NGC Ocho (type 8.0) holders with W or T grades or Ochos of any grade if the holder has a type of coin I don't yet own. Contact me at davidschwager@hotmail.com or Instagram @schwagerdavid

Selling

Just a few for sale this time, but all are attractive pieces at attractive prices. Feel free to ask for more photos. All payment methods accepted (feeless preferred). Shipping $5, free with $50 order. To order, email davidschwager@hotmail.com, or Instagram message @schwagerdavid.

1. PCGS doily

Doilies are hot, with even the most common coins in production doilies now earning $500 and up. The doily sample has become the least expensive way to acquire this iconic holder design. This example is in above average condition and yours for $400.

2. PCGS National Silver Dollar Roundtable

Older blue label. There's strong demand for the Silver Dollar Roundtable holders. Two available. Reduced to $100.

3. PCGS US-Mexican Numismatic Convention

These holders have become an eagerly anticipated part of this growing annual convention. Two available. $20.

4. PCGS Green Label No-Date Buffalo Nickel Sample.

This is one of the PCGS rarities and a desirable older sample. Reduced to $240

5. PCGS Luncheon 2022
PCGS moved their luncheon to the Long Beach Expo for 2022 and 2023. The event wasn't well publicized, and few samples were given, making it one of the toughest in the luncheon series. HALVED to $100. Take the Maya Angelou variety from this luncheon for the same price.

Also see my eBay store. I will give better prices on eBay listings for readers who contact me directly. Sometimes a little better, sometimes a lot better, depending on how much room I have on the item.

Sample Slab Update #42 – June 2025 (sent 6/8/25). Published about every two months by David Schwager, Fountain Valley, California. davidschwager@hotmail.com. Please email me to be added to or removed from the mailing list. Comments and submissions are welcome. See the Newman Numismatic Portal for past issues. The best way to reach me and know what I am doing is Instagram @schwagerdavid. I also respond to Facebook messages.